

Flash floods hit more areas in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 17: With continued rains and onrush of waters from the upperstream and hilly areas from across the border, more areas in Sylhet were inundated during the last 24 hours. The water-level in all the rivers is rising.

In Companyganj thana, standing Boro and other crops on ten thousand acres in the low-lying areas have gone under water. In the Kanglabari, Lambabil, Rautebari, Patharbi Haor, Pangash, Khal, Garakhuri Haor, Eolashadrom, Noagadrom, Bilajur, Kathalbari, Beel and Chhedarganj Bell have been flooded. These haors and beels are now under 3 to 4 feet water.

More than one hundred boats engaged in the collection of stones in the stone quarries in Companyganj thana had been missing since a storm lashed the areas this morning. Fresh areas in the Kanatghat thana and Sylhet Sadar thana were inundated today. About 30 per cent croplands of Mogaiganj and Jalalabad unions of sadar thana were inundated due to a breach in the sluice gate on the Jikar haor.

Standing crops on thousands of acres in Jakkiganj and Gowafghat thanas had gone under water due to the heavy rains and onrush of water from the hilly areas during the last four days.

In the district of Sunamganj, standing Boro crops on several thousand acres in Tahirpur, Doarabazar and Sunamganj sadar thanas have been flooded due to heavy rains and onrush of waters from the upperstream.

Property worth Tk 1cr gutted, 1 dies in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 17: A helper of a tank lorry was burnt to death and 7 other sustained burn injuries in a fire that took place at Beanbaraz today.

The fire burnt a tank lorry, a petrol pump and 4 other business establishments. The loss has preliminarily been estimated to be about Taka one crore, sources said.

At about 11 am, the fire originated from a stick of a safety match (Fire Box) as an employee of the petrol pump (Shahid & Co) was firing a cigarette while unloading fuel from an oil tank lorry. The blaze soon spread to the petrol pump and adjacent shops. Hossain Ahmed, 22, was burnt to death. Abdu Shahid, owner of the petrol pump, Azizur Rahman, driver of the tank lorry, Azizul Islam and 4 others sustained burn injuries. They were admitted to hospital.

US food aid

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five flow," said a source concerned.

According to another source, the US decision to withdraw food aid would lead to an additional food import worth about 70 million dollars.

The government recently instructed the General Economic Commission to study the recent US assistance related developments and its adverse impact on the country's economy, sources added.

The US decision would further lead to depletion of the foreign exchange reserves, mounting pressure on the balance of payment. Foreign exchange reserves have fallen due to more imports following unprecedented crop losses in the country.

This is also likely to fuel the inflation rate due to anticipated food prices rise in the wake of shortfall, causing growing strains in the government's fiscal and monetary management, sources feared.

Meanwhile, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) forecast that Bangladesh will have to import 1.6 million tonnes of rice this year which will be about 0.3 million tonnes more than last year's imports.

The US government, the second bilateral donor to Bangladesh, provided a total assistance of 3281 million dollars till February 1995.



Awami League president Sheikh Hasina with the winners of the essay competition for juveniles in the city yesterday organised on the occasion of the 76th anniversary of birth of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. — Star photo

Salman's move condemned

A 50-member delegation of different chambers of commerce and trade associations of Bangladesh called on the Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam at his secretariat office here yesterday, reports BSS.

Shahjahan Siraj, Minister of State for Shipping and IWT, was also present.

The delegation, led by former FBCCI President Alhaj Muhammad Akram Hussain, apprised the minister of the current deadlock and expressed grave concern over the present day affairs of the trade and industry. The delegation regretted that the incumbent FBCCI President Salman F. Rahman, instead of redressing the grievances of the business community, has started unethical practice and resorted to political activities.

The recent move by Salman F. Rahman in collusion with some interested quarters was condemned for exploiting this non-political private sector business organisation as his political platform by ignoring and flouting the trade organisation ordinance and the memorandum of association of the FBCCI, they observed, said a press release.

The delegation comprised Chairman of the Shippers' Council, Chairman, Jute Association, Vice-Chairman, Vegetable Oil Refiners Association, President, Meherpur Chamber of Commerce, representatives of Insurance Association, Launch Owners Association, Ship Building Association, Oil Tankers Association, Cargo Owners Association, former Vice-President of FBCCI

BGMEA warns Opposition of 'allout action'

The Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has warned of 'allout action' if the Opposition sponsored non-cooperation programme is not relaxed for the readymade garments sector, reports UNB.

The warning came yesterday from an emergency meeting of the BGMEA executive committee, held as per the March 12 mandate of the special meeting of the garments manufacturers, said a press release.

The EC meeting demanded of opposition leader Sheikh Hasina to announce relaxations in their non-cooperation against the government, keeping ports, transportation and other related agencies of the readymade garments sector out of the programme.

Otherwise, the meeting said, the BGMEA would be compelled to take allout and greater programme for keeping the industry out of the non-cooperation as the association was forced to demand resignation of the government.

Although the opposition has announced some relaxation, the BGMEA said, but the garments factories remained out of operation as the ports, transportation system and other related agencies are not functioning.

Workings between 4 pm and 5 am not only cause insecurity and administrative complexities for garments units where employees are mostly women, but also undermines quality for which exports are often not possible, the meeting noted.

Tributes paid to Bangabandhu

Tributes were paid to the country's independence leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman yesterday on the occasion of his 76th birth anniversary, reports UNB.

Awami League and its front organisations observed the day through hoisting of national and party flags, placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu, discussion meetings, milad mahfil and Quran Khwani.

Hundreds of men, women and children paid tributes to the late leader by placing wreaths at his portrait at the Bangabandhu Bhaban in the city.

They also visited the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Museum. His younger daughter Sheikh Rehana and relatives were present on the occasion.

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Bhaban in the morning.

Central leaders of Awami League, Chhatra League, Jubo League, Krishak League, Bangabandhu Parishad, Muktiyoddha Sanghat Parishad and Supreme Court Ainjibi Parishad also placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu.

BSS adds, outside Dhaka, national and party flags were also hoisted at top all district and thana offices of the party. Quran Khwani, milad mahfil and special prayers were held at various places.

Sec 144 imposed BNP-Opposition clash at Hajiganj

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Mar 17: Section 144 was imposed in Hajiganj thana headquarters today after a clash between the activists of opposition political parties and ruling BNP which left more than one hundred people, including 8 police personnel, injured.

Of the injured, 12 were admitted to the Hajiganj government hospital and 13 to a private clinic.

Lankans rule

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They looked to be heading for a large total as captain Mark Taylor cut loose against opening pace bowlers Pramodya Wickremasinghe and Chaminda Vaas.

Although losing his side's leading run-scorer Mark Waugh for 12, caught off a casual clip straight to square leg, Taylor played a series of superbly timed strokes to race to his half-century from 52 deliveries.

He took two boundaries in an over off each of the pacemen as well as pulling Vaas for six over mid-wicket. Even the advent of the spinners failed to slow Taylor down and he and Ricky Ponting looked untroubled as they added 101 in 115 balls for the second wicket.

At the halfway mark in their innings, Australia had reached 134 for one and looked poised to set a very difficult target.

But after hitting a six and eight fours in making 74 from 83 deliveries, the Australian captain was also guilty of a careless shot, pulling a short ball from De Silva straight to Jayasuriya at square leg.

Ponting, who had not batted with the same fluency as his captain, became De Silva's second victim, bowled when attempting a forcing shot after making a 73-ball 45.

The momentum was never recovered following Taylor's departure and the tempo slowed in such a way that after the 25th over, only 45 runs came from the next 15.

Australia attempted to boost the rate by pushing Waugh up the order as they had done with much success in the quarter final against New Zealand, but this time it failed.

After making two, he went down the pitch to off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan and was smartly stumped by Kahyatharapa.

BNP's bill

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of the parties that had earlier floated various formulae," said a front-ranking leader of the ruling party.

Under such an arrangement, any of the available formulae could be implemented to form a non-party caretaker government on the basis of consensus among the rival political parties.

AJM gunfight: Body of missing young man found

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 17: Police today recovered the body of a young man who had been missing since March 15 following a gunfight at Adamjee Jute Mills.

The victim was identified as Jashim 22. The body was recovered from the river Shitalakhya near the Star Particles Board Mills.

The Jatiyatadabi Sramik Dal, Adamjee unit, claimed that Jashim was one of the three persons who have been missing following the gunbattle at Adamjee Jute Mills between Awami League and BNP workers on March 15. The other two are Jahangir and Bashir.

The Sramik Dal also alleged that both of them were also killed by the opposition activists as their whereabouts were not known yet.

The body was sent to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy.

Meanwhile, the combined opposition parties held a rally at Adamjee Sramik Kalyan ground with Shaif Sardar in the chair protesting the killing of Shahin.

2 killed, 70 hurt in Nawabganj clash

NAWABGANJ, Mar 17: Two people were killed and 70 others injured in a clash between two rival groups of people at a village in Sadar thana today, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Shohrab Member, 45, and Kasimuddin, 45, of Chackianpur village.

The cause behind the clash between Rabi and Nurul Islam groups could not be ascertained immediately.

The rival groups during their day-long clash traded some 100 gunshots and exploded nearly 100 homemade bombs.

Business leaders

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sures the government was due to deal with escalating crisis.

In this regard, they urged the prime minister to take immediate measures to facilitate reopening of ports, transport and communications, financial institutions and trade and industry.

The business leaders also urged the government to take immediate measures to facilitate movement of diesel, fertilizer and daily necessities.

The meeting sources said the Prime Minister gave a patient hearing, exchanged views on the current situation and assured that her government was trying to bring a solution to the political crisis.

The trade-body chiefs also met Awami League president Sheikh Hasina on Saturday and apprised her how the ongoing non-cooperation movement had brought miseries to the business community.

During the meeting, they also expressed their apprehensions that unless the economy was allowed to function, even the next generation would be let down.

The business leaders requested Hasina to consider announcing immediate relaxations in respect of non-government business and industry, transport, ports, financial institutions to save the economy from ruin.

In this regard, they also submitted specific proposals to the Awami League president.

PM: Caretaker

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a constitutional amendment to incorporate provisions for caretaker government for holding polls both in pursuance of the Opposition demands and her own commitment earlier, she observed.

Responding to a question on the framework of the proposed caretaker government bill, the Prime Minister said its details would be known when it was placed before the House.

Asked even if passing of the caretaker administration bill failed to bring the Opposition parties to the next polls, she replied: "What else do they want? I do not want to speculate on that now. But I sincerely do hope they will participate if they believe in the electoral process and in the efficacy of democratic principles."

its side in the past, she replied, "I do not believe in enticing, intimidating or luring members of any party. Democracy gives freedom of choice to the voters. It is only the process of elections that should determine the political fortunes of any political party — big or small."

Asked if she felt threatened or vulnerable by the Opposition's non-cooperation programme, Begum Zia replied: "I do not feel threatened about my myself or my party but what I am genuinely concerned about is the state of the economy and the suffering of the people."

The Prime Minister observed that she was quite aware about the agonies of the people and the suffering they were facing due to the Opposition's non-cooperation programme. "It is my sincere



Opposition activists set fire to a rickshaw carrying mike during a "citizens' procession" demanding end to the political crisis in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

Kamal : SC ref

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banked on the negative sides of the dialogue to draw his conclusions.

Dr Kamal noted that both the government and the Opposition had agreed on the caretaker government issue and that the chief justice or a retired chief justice could head such a government and hold elections by May.

"Since there is a consensus on these points, these can be easily pursued under the Con-

VP Singh for presidential system of govt in India

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NEW DELHI, Mar 17: Former Prime Minister Vishwanath Prasad Singh said today that the time had come for India to consider seriously adopting the presidential system of government, reports APP.

Singh told the Times of India that the nation should consider a presidential system as an "intervalling force" to the era of coalition politics the country reading for.

"In all likelihood there will a hung parliament after the elections and political parties I have to combine to form a next government. Apart from that ... there will be different pulls and pressures," Singh told the daily.

To ensure that this does not act as a destabilising factor it is important to look at a presidential system of government because it can act as a "lifying force," Singh said.

The 64-year-old former minister, who brought India's national front coalition to power in 1989-90, is considered one of the least corrupt in Indian politics.

He called for a country-wide debate on the issue and India should look to the United States and France as the presidential system model.

"The crucial thing is that president should come through a direct election. Only in the present can be an intervening force to those who are pulling the country in different directions," Singh said.

Artistes to boycott Radio-TV tomorrow

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The Radio-Television Artists Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Bangladesh Recitation Coordination Council and Jatiya Kabita Parishad, in a joint meeting held in the city yesterday, took the decision in solidarity with the opposition's non-cooperation with the government.

The meeting also reiterated the demand for resignation of the government and fresh polls under a neutral caretaker administration.

Left-hander Bevan compiled a sensible, unbeaten 36 from 49 deliveries but Australia would have been disappointed with their final total.

Sri Lanka are the first host nation to lift the World Cup, having staged the tournament jointly with India and Pakistan.

(Scorecard on Page 11)

The Midnight File

Bodos kill 3 in Assam

GUWAHATI, Mar 17: Suspected Bodo security force militants today shot dead three employees of the power grid and kidnapped another from Anguri village under the Itanagar police station in Sonitpur district of Assam, reports PTI.

One killed, 50 hurt

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minibus was set ablaze at Jatrabari by some unidentified persons in the afternoon, said police. Witnesses said that the bomb was hurled while the minibus was parked along the road near the Sayedabad bus terminal. None was hurt.

At least 10 people were injured, three of them with rubber bullet, when some Opposition activists clashed with the members of law enforcing agencies at North Shabhanpur at noon. The bullet-hit persons were admitted to the DMCH.

Clashes between activists of ruling and opposition parties were also reported from Mahakhali. Police lobbed tear gas to disperse the feuding groups, said witnesses.

In another incident 10 people including a staff photographer of The Daily Star, Anisur Rahman, were injured when workers of Bangladesh Chhatra League clashed with a group of people holding placards reading "Shadharan Jotogon" and chanting slogans against the government and the opposition political parties while marching in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Witnesses said that the BCL supporters chased the processionists, blasted cocktails and snatched their microphones, besides manhandling some of them. They processionists also pelted bricks at the BCL activists.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat launched the countrywide indefinite non-cooperation programme from March 9 to press their demands for cancellation of the February 15 elections, resignation of the Khaleda Zia government and elections under a non-party caretaker government by May.

Railway sources at Kamalapur disclosed that an attempt was made to operate trains but it failed.

The train drivers had demanded security personnel in trains during the non-cooperation movement. But Karnaphuli, a Chittagong-bound express train had left the Kamalapur station with security escort but had to return from Narsingdi.

BSS reported that eight people were injured when a bomb was hurled on a minibus as it came near an Opposition rally at Mahakhali in the morning.

UNB adds: A police inspector was seriously injured in a mob attack when opposition supporters gheraoed the TNO Office at Pangsha under Rajbari yesterday.

Witnesses said Mohammad Ali Akand, Pangsha thana officer-in-charge, suffered head injury when Awami League activists pelted stones at policemen. The injured was under treatment at Pangsha thana health complex.

Awami League workers demanding fresh elections, earlier, brought out a procession protesting the President's summoning of the 6th Jatiya Sangsad.

No decision yet to postpone SSC exams

By Staff Correspondent

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations will begin on March 28 as per schedule.

According to the sources at the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, no decision as yet has been taken to postpone the examinations, nor has the Directorate received any request to do so in face of the prevailing political unrest.

When and if the Ministry of Education decides on rescheduling the SSC exams, we will inform the press, an official of the Dhaka Board told this correspondent, when contacted over the phone yesterday.

People's curfew

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Chowdhury in the chair.

However, 53 cargo vessels remained stranded at the port due to the ongoing stand-off caused by opposition-sponsored non-cooperation programme, port sources said.

Of them, 16 vessels stuck up at port jetties, 7 in the river Moorings, and 30 others at the outer anchorage.

Of the container vessels — five are stranded at port jetties and nine others at the outer anchorage, the sources added.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা বুরো
স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর
সি/সি, সি/১, ইন্টার হাউজিং, প্রজেক্ট-২
কম্পানপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
ফোন নং-৯৬৬৬/৯৬৬৬/৯৬৬৬ তারিখ : ১৪-৩-১৯৯৬ইং

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয় : বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য দিবস ৭ই এপ্রিল '৯৬ইং উপলক্ষে রচনা প্রতিযোগিতা

বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য দিবস ৭ই এপ্রিল '৯৬ উপলক্ষে উপলক্ষে নিম্নে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী সাপেক্ষে আগ্রহী ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদের নিকট থেকে রচনা আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। বিজয়ীদের মাঝে আকর্ষণীয় পুরস্কার বিতরণ করা হবে।

কাগজ খারাপ

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